MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 JANUARY 1983

Lebanon

Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. Negotiations -- The ninth round of Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks began at Khaldah on 24 January shortly after an RPG shell hit a nearby IDF barrier, wounding an Israeli soldier, IDF Radio reported. According to Jerusalem radio, the shell was fired from an area north of Beirut airport where U.S. Marines are stationed. The previous day Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib held their second weekend meeting but failed to resolve the dispute over Israel's demand that Israeli-manned early warning stations or IDF bases be established in Lebanon for a limited period of time, Jerusalem television reported. According to the report, Begin's visit to Washington will not take place in February. After the meeting Habib announced that he would return to Washington for consultations, Jerusalem radio noted. The U.S. envoy had earlier visited Beirut, Cairo, and Riyadh for talks with Lebanese, Egyptian, and Saudi leaders, according to Beirut radio, MENA, and SPA.

Israeli Cabinet sources meanwhile stated that if the United States does not change its position toward the arrangements with Lebanon, Israel will have to seek "other Ways" to attain its objectives, Jerusalem radio reported. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the 23 January Israeli Cabinet meeting that Lebanon should pay a price for having allowed "terrorists" to operate in its territory in the past and that Israel should not oppose a Syrian desire to have early warning stations in Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported.

Reporting on the Lebanese position, Beirut radio said a responsible source in Beirut disclosed that Lebanon is willing to accept early warning stations supervised either by the United Nations or the multinational force. The source denied that Lebanon has agreed to Habib's proposal that Americans supervise the stations. Earlier, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said the U.S. position in the negotiations is "sometimes slackening and sometimes firm." The United States should always be firm, he added, for the sake of U.S. credibility as well as for Lebanon's sake.

Military, Security Situation -- Druze and Christian militia exchanged artillery fire over the weekend in the 'Alayh area, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The radio added that on 22 January a shell fired by the Druze wounded a number of Israeli soldiers. In the Al-Biqa' valley tension prevailed along the confrontation line between the Israeli forces on the one side and the Syrian and Palestinian forces on the other following an exchange of artillery and rocket fire north of Al-Qir'awn lake, according to Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio. The radio noted that an Israeli spokesman warned the Palestinians against provoking the Israeli forces, saying that "the answer will be very stiff." Meanwhile, Israeli defense officials expressed "amazement" at U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's "overreaction" to reports of incidents between U.S. Marines and Israeli troops, THE JERUSALEM POST pointed out.

PLO

Relations With Syria, Internal Disputes -- Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum chaired a 23 January meeting in Damascus attended by a number of Palestinian representatives including PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Earlier, the radio asserted that during Yasir 'Arafat's recent visit to Moscow, CPSU General Secretary Yuriy Andropov told the Palestinian delegation to coordinate with Syria "if you want to remain alive." The radio also broadcast several interviews with a number of Palestinian personalities in

which PLO-Syrian relations as well as the recent Tripoli declaration by Libya and five PLO factions were the main subjects of discussion. Khalid al-Fahum told the radio that the PLO-Syrian dialogue is proceeding well and expressed optimism that the PLO and Syria will reach a complete agreement on points of "disparity." In a lengthier interview with the radio, PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir said 'Arafat will meet with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in an attempt to resolve PLO-Syrian differences, most probably after the February PNC session. While confirming the existence of PLO-Syrian disputes on a number of issues, including the conduct of the Lebanon war, he denied that the PLO has become part of a Jordanian-Iraqi-Saudi "axis."

In other Radio Monte Carlo interviews, representatives of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front (PPSF) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) praised the Tripoli declaration while 'Arafat's adviser 'Isam as-Sartawi criticized it. Meanwhile, the PFLP-General Command, the PPSF, the "Palestinian Liberation Front," and As-Sa'iqah issued statements condemning 'Arafat's recent meeting in Tunisia with Israeli peace activists, according to Damascus radio reports. A related "Palestine broadcast" commentary by Damascus radio said that it would be futile to hold a dialogue with the Peace Now movement, which is still "hostile" to Palestinian rights, and that to allow Peace Now representatives to attend the PNC meetings would be a "bad joke."

Nevertheless, a Palestinian source in Tunis disclosed earlier that the PLO leadership is "carefully considering" the attendance of an Israeli peace delegation with observer status at the Algiers PNC meeting, Radio Monte Carlo reported. One of the Israelis who recently met with 'Arafat told French television that the PLO is "absolutely ready" to recognize Israel if the latter recognizes the PLO, according to AFP. However, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir called for legislation by the Israeli Government to prevent Israeli Jews from meeting with PLO members, according to remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television.

'Arafat Activities -- PLO leader 'Arafat arrived in the PDRY on 23 January to patronize a 25 January Palestinian revolution anniversary celebration in Aden which will feature a Palestinian military parade representing all PLO factions, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio and Radio Monte Carlo. Earlier, 'Arafat had visited Morocco to participate in meetings of the Arab seven-member committee and the Jerusalem Committee, INA reported on 21 January. The PLO leader met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Moroccan King Hassan II, SPA and Rabat radio reported. He also sent an "important and urgent" message to the Egyptian foreign minister, according to MENA.

PLO Representation on Committee for London -- Former Halhul Mayor Muhammad Milhim stated in Rabat that the PLO continues to insist on being officially represented on the Arab seven-member committee in its forthcoming visit to London, INA reported. Milhim disclaimed knowledge about reports that he will be nominated to represent the PLO for the London visit.

Syrian Missiles

The Damascus paper TISHRIN indicated that Syria's SAM's are now deployed, asserting that the missiles constitute a defensive network against aircraft violating Syrian airspace, Radio Monte Carlo reported on 22 January. Meanwhile, the Israeli defense minister's office "vehemently" denied a NEWSWEEK report that about 2 weeks ago the Israeli Cabinet rejected Defense Minister Sharon's proposal to destroy the SAM-5's in Syria, according to Jerusalem radio.

Syrian-Libyan-Iranian Declaration

Syria, Libya, and Iran condemn the "insolent attacks by international Zionism and its allies" on Syria's right to self-defense and declare their solidarity in confronting

any aggression against Syria, according to a communique issued in Damascus at the end of talks between the Syrian, Libyan, and Iranian foreign ministers. The communique, which was broadcast by Tehran radio and Damascus television on 23 January, said the three countries oppose all plans aimed at leading the PLO to recognize "the Zionist enemy" or negotiate with it. Calling on PLO officials to unite against such plans, the communique condemned all attempts to pressure the PLO into making concessions that contradict its objectives and also denounced the "Baghdad-Cairo axis." The conferees demanded an end to all types of aid to the Iraqi regime, stressing the importance of a popular uprising in Iraq to overthrow President Saddam Husayn. Stressing the importance of strengthening Arab-Iranian relations and of securing Iran's participation in the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, the communique said the front must be reactivated and arrangements for the next front meeting must be accelerated. Syria, Libya, and Iran will continue their contacts by holding another meeting in Tehran, the communique noted.

The Syrian and Iranian foreign ministers described the talks as "very positive" and the latter said they will give new momentum to the Streadfastness Front, IRNA reported.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jerusalem Committee -- After meeting in Marrakech over the weekend the Jerusalem Committee issued a statement broadcast by Rabat radio praising the Fes peace plan, and expressing support for all measures taken by the Lebanese Government to guarantee Lebanon's unity and sovereignty.

Husayn trip -- Jordanian King Husayn embarked on a tour of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, Amman radio reported on 22 January. The same day Riyadh radio noted that the chief of Syria's General Staff conveyed a message to Saudi King Fahd from Syrian President al-Asad.

OPEC Meeting

At the end of the first day of the consultative meeting of OPEC oil ministers in Geneva, OPEC Secretary General Marc Nan Nguema announced "there is a 50-50 chance an agreement will be reached to avoid plunging the work into a state of anarchy," OPECNA reported. Nan Nguema said there was no talk of price cuts and denied reported threats by certain member countries against "overproducers," adding that the meeting is dealing with more issues than it anticipated, according to OPECNA. Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi stated that all members agreed on output, each member's share, and the price of oil, Tehran radio noted.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

The 20 January incident at Tabah was an error and was unrelated to the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over the border demarcation there, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told Israel's MA'ARIV. Noting that the Egyptians have erected a new fence at the demilitarized zone, Jerusalem radio said the incident was over.

Karmal Hasan 'Ali subsequently received a message from his Israeli counterpart Yitzhaq Shamir dealing with Egyptian-Israeli relations as well as Lebanon, MENA reported. According to Jerusalem radio, Shamir urged 'Ali to resume joint efforts to overcome all the problems pending between the two countries and thoroughly discuss them.

In a separate development, Jerusalem radio cited an IDF announcement that Israeli security forces have captured terrorists affiliated with Fatah who received orders from commanders residing in Egypt. The captured men were said to have been responsible for the recent attack on a bus in Tel Aviv. A Fatah official dismissed the Israeli statement, asserting that Fatah has only an administrative office in Egypt, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Egypt

Foreign Minister 'Ali urged the United States to play a more decisive role in the forthcoming stage of the Middle East peace process so that Arab countries will not doubt U.S. ability in continuing this process, Cairo radio reported. Meanwhile, President Husni Mubarak said his upcoming visit to the United States, Canada, Britain, and France is basically aimed at giving impetus to the peace process and achieving flexibility in using U.S. aid for development projects, Cairo radio noted, citing Mubarak's remarks during a meeting with NDP youths on 23 January. Analyzing the Iraq-Iran war, Mubarak declared that Egypt will help Iraq by supplying it with weapons because Iraq is an Islamic and Arab state, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian fighter planes and air defense units shot down two Iraqi aircraft in the western Dezful region on 21 January, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. Meanwhile, an Iraqi Air Force squadron shot down an Iranian aircraft during a 21 January dogfight, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio.

Iran

Esfahan Islamic Revolution guards arrested 90 Mojahedin-e Khalq members during a "purging operation," according to a 20 January Esfahan radio report. In another development the Islamic Guidance Ministry on 20 January refuted rumors on the closure of the Soviet news agency TASS' Tehran bureau, IRNA noted. The ministry said the Soviet correspondent's residence permit has not been renewed, but this does not mean the closure of the Tehran bureau, IRNA added.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concluded his 17-21 January visit to Bulgaria with the signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty and a program for the development of economic, scientific, and technical development, JANA reported citing a Libyan-Bulgarian joint communique. Al-Qadhdhafi is currently visiting Romania where he held a closed meeting on 22 January with President Nicolae Ceausescu, JANA noted.

DAILY REPORT

South Asia

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MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karachi Reports on Recent Mujahidin Operations C 1
Farah Province Clashes C 1
Herat Province Attack C 1
Briefs: Soviet Aid C 1

INDIA

Candidates 'Declared Elected Unopposed' in Assam E 1
AFP: 1st Violence Victim E 1
Kashmir, Jammu Government Issues Ordinances E 1

PAKISTAN

UN's Cordovez Arrives for Talks on Afghanistan F 1
Student Unrest Reported in Several Cities F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

NEPAL

Army Staff Chief Leaves for UK 21 January G 1

SRI LANKA

'Piece of Metal Dropped From Space' Studied G 1
Investigation Continues G 1

IRAN

Velayati, Delegation Return From Syrian Visit I 1
'Satisfaction' Expressed I 1
Oil Minister Comments on Maintaining Price I 2
Delegation Departs for OPEC Meeting 22 January I 2
Velayati Meets With UN Envoy on Afghanistan I 3
Majlis Speaker Warns of Force Against Iraq I 3
Khamene'i Scores Countries Sending Arms to Iraq I 4
Pakistani Daily Cited on Soviet Supplies to Iraq I 5
Khamene'i Comments on War, Palestinian Cause I 5
Armed Forces Joint Staff Issues Communiques I 6
Communique No 1,190 I 6
Communique No 1,191 I 7

KARACHI REPORTS ON RECENT MUJAHIDIN OPERATIONS

Farah Province Clashes

BK231014 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the Afghan mujahidin have killed many Soviet and Karmal forces in two clashes in Farah Province. They also destroyed a tank and seized a large number of weapons. The Afghan mujahidin launched three attacks on Soviet-Karmal troops on Thursday on Islam Kala Road in Herat Province, killing 16 Soviet-Karmal troops and wounding many others. They also damaged one helicopter and several armored vehicles. The reports add that after these attacks, Soviet helicopters and heavy artillery massively attacked the civilian population in these areas, killing and wounding many civilians.

Herat Province Attack

BK231638 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] In Afghanistan the mujahidin attacked the [word indistinct] military camp of the Karmal administration in the Ghoryan Subdivision of Herat Province near the Iranian border, according to reports. The reports said the mujahidin damaged a tank in an attack with rocket launchers on 8 January, killing the men in the tank. Many Karmal administration forces were also killed during the clash. The mujahidin seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the Karmal military (?fortifications) nearby.

The reports also said that the mujahidin have established their administration in the Tolak Subdivision of Ghowr Province. This subdivision was liberated by the mujahidin last month and on that occasion 250 soldiers of the Karmal administration joined the mujahidin along with their arms. These soldiers, now under the command of the Afghan mujahidin, are fighting the Soviet-Karmal administration forces.

BRIEFS

SOVIET AID -- A contract for the free delivery of materials, tools, and equipment for the expansion of the Department of Meteorology of the Ministry of Transport was concluded today between the Department of Meteorology and the Tekhnoeksport Institute of the Soviet Union. The contract was signed by the head of the Department of Meteorology of the Ministry of Transport and the representative of the Technoeksport Institute. Under the contract, the materials and tools necessary for the construction of 35 meteorology units will be provided free of charge by the Soviet Technoeksport Institute to the Department of Meteorology. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 Jan 83 LD]

CANDIDATES 'DECLARED ELECTED UNOPPOSED' IN ASSAM

BK240937 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] In Assam, 423 candidates will contest 122 seats to the state assembly in the ensuing elections. Four candidates have already been declared elected unopposed to the 126 member assembly; 94 candidates withdrew their nominations. According to final figures available with the state electoral office in Gauhati, there will be altogether 39 candidates for the 12 Lok Sabha seats including 1 candidate whose nomination was countermanded in 1980 following postponement of elections.

In Kamrup District, police yesterday opened fire to disperse a violent mob which attacked a police party and some high officials at a village near (Chenga) in Barpeta Subdivision. Official sources in Gauhati said that no one was injured in the firing.

AFP: 1st Violence Victim

BK240744 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Excerpt] New Delhi, Jan. 24 (AFP) -- Pre-election violence in Assam has claimed its first victim as reports of arson and sabotage continued to pour in from various parts of the north-eastern state which heads for controversial assembly elections in mid-February.

The victim was identified as Tilok Gogoi, a proposer for Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in the state's Sibsagar District, Indian news agencies reported today.

He was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants in broad daylight, agencies said.

The army has been called out to guard telecommunication and oil facilities and state-owned radio stations in the state, where the natives are opposing polls as the electoral list contained names of immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal.

Assam protest leaders have been pressing for expulsion and disenfranchisement of the estimated five million immigrants who constitute about 45 percent of the electorate.

Indian newspapers today reported several cases of kidnapping of candidates, their proposers or close relatives.

KASHMIR, JAMMU GOVERNMENT ISSUES ORDINANCES

BK230914 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government today promulgated three ordinances to foster secularism and to ensure purity in public life. One of the ordinances provides for taking action against any person or association propagating enmity between different groups on the ground of religion, casts, place of birth or residence, or language. Violation of the ordinance's provisions shall entail banning of parties or groups or imprisonment up to 3 months.

Briefing newsmen in Jammu, State Law Minister P.L. Handoo said that under another ordinance, ministers, legislators, and public servants shall have to declare their assets and that of their families within 3 months of assuming their office.

Under the third ordinance, the Jammu and Kashmir Government Prevention of Corruption Act 1975 has been repealed and changes have been made in the provisions of the criminal procedure act to tackle problems of cheating the government by dishonest contractors. The amended laws shall now include every person who has been or is a member of the legislature or Council of Ministers.

UN'S CORDOVEZ ARRIVES FOR TALKS ON AFGHANISTAN

BK231714 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative, Diego Cordovez, has said that the momentum of efforts to seek a political solution to the Afghan problem will be kept up and untimately will be successful. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad Airport upon his arrival this evening from Tehran after talks with Iranian leaders at the beginning of his second round of shuttle talks.

Cordovez said the Geneva talks basically had produced a good package of understanding and that the whole process will be continued based on this understanding. He said that since his last visit to Pakistan, there seems to be growing unanimous support from all quarters for the idea of a negotiated settlement of the Afghan problem, adding that there also was growing support for the role of the United Nations in this process.

He said his trip to Tehran was very successful; he had useful and constructive talks with the Iranian leaders. He said he was satisfied with his talks in Tehran. He added that this was a continuing process and that he had been in touch with all parties concerned in the last few months. In this context, he referred to his meeting with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in New York during the UN General Assembly session.

He said he is looking forward to his talks with the foreign minister and with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad. He said that during his meeting with the president, he will convey to him that people respect the active support being extended by Pakistan to seeking a political solution to the Afghan problem.

STUDENT UNREST REPORTED IN SEVERAL CITIES

BK220855 Hong Kong AFP in English 0006 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 21 (AFP) -- A military court today ordered 11 college students flogged and 22 others imprisoned in a summary judgment aimed at forestalling student demonstrations that have erupted in several Pakistani cities in recent weeks.

The 33 students of Rawalpindi Polytechnic College were arrested Wednesday as they demonstrated for an upgrading of their course of study from diploma to Bachelor of Science Degree.

Student unrest meanwhile simmered in the Punjab and Sind Provinces.

Police yesterday teargassed student demonstrators at Karachi University, where nine students and three police were injured.

The Karachi students, in their third week of protest, are demanding reinstitution of honours classes, revival of the semester system of examinations and reopening of the investigation into the murder of a local student.

Student also demonstrated in Islamabad, Sahiwal, Lahore and elsewhere for such things as creation of a technical university and higher pay for graduate engineers.

NEPAL

ARMY STAFF CHIEF LEAVES FOR UK 21 JANUARY

BK211609 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Chief of the Army Staff General Singha Pratap Shaha left Katmandu today on a weeklong visit to the United Kingdom at the official invitation of Chief of the General Staff Sir (Charles Stiener) of the United Kingdom.

SRI LANKA

'PIECE OF METAL DROPPED FROM SPACE' STUDIED

BK230235 Colombo Domestic Service in Hindi 0130 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Dr Granville Dharmawordenda, chairman of the Sri Lanka Atomic Energy Commission, said that it is not possible to say at present that the so-called piece of metal which dropped from space could be a part of the Soviet satellite. A team of scientists left by helicopter for the site near the Mawatagama area in Sri Lanka immediately after receiving the news at noon yesterday of the fall of a metallic object from space. The [word indistinct] received at the site of the incident showed that there is no presence of radioactivity in the area. There was no indication of any radioactivity after the survey conducted with scientific equipment within a meter of the metallic object and, thus, the area was declared free from radioactivity.

Dr Dharmawardena told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that on the basis of the facts currently available from the investigation it cannot be said that the metallic object was piece of the satellite. On the search of the area no other metallic object or (?any other dangerous object) was visible. The metallic object has been brought to the radioisotope center of the Colombo University for examination and it is hoped that the results of the examination will be available by tomorrow.

Investigation Continues

BK231324 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] An emergency team of nuclear scientists is standing by in the event of further debris coming down to Sri Lanka from space. Dr Granville Dharmawardena, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation [SLBC] that scientists had already separated white molten material from the object that came down at Mawatagama from the soil in the area. He added that they have announced that they are now in the process of examining the material. Samples will be sent abroad if necessary.

Arthur C. Clark told the SLBC that until the exact time of the crash of the object at Mawatagama is correlated with the position of the Cosmos satellite in the orbit, one cannot come to any conclusion. No decision could be reached until the chemical analysis is made of the very small fragment of earth. Clark also said that some of the ash is slightly magnetic. This indicates the presence of iron and nickle, which makes it unlikely that it came from the Cosmos satellite made with lighter material such as aluminum and magnesium. Arthur Clark said that although it was unlikely that the material was from the Cosmos satellite or a meterorite, one cannot rule out the possibility altogether.

VELAYATI, DELEGATION RETURN FROM SYRIAN VISIT

GF230800 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The Iranian political delegation which was led by Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati has concluded its 3-day visit to Syria.

Upon return to Tehran, the minister told our correspondent that the results of his talks in Damascus with the Syrian and Libyan sides were extremely positive. He indicated the need that such talks be held to confront the provocations of international arrogance and Zionism in the region. Dr Velayati expressed hope that the meetings will create a new momentum in the Confrontation and Steadfastness Front.

'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, spoke to our correspondent on this visit and the results of the tripartite talks. He said the talks were very useful. He said he hopes relations among the three countries will be developed further.

Foreign Minister Velayati held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. He also discussed, in a joint meeting with Libyan justice secretary and Khaddam, issues dealing with tripartite cooperation among Iran, Syria, and Libya in order to confront international arrogance and Zionism in the region. A joint communique will be issued in the three capitals on the results of the Iranian-Syrian-Libyan talks in Damascus.

'Satisfaction' Expressed

LD231012 Tehran IRNA in English 0922 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 23 IRNA -- Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati expressed satisfaction over the discussions and results of the meeting he had with his counterparts from Syria and Libya. He said a communique focusing on the Damascus talks will be issued soon from the capitals of the three countries.

He was talking to IRNA at the Mehrabad Airport on Saturday night just after his arrival from Damascus where he participated in tripartite talks.

Velayati said a similar meeting will be held soon in Tehran to continue mutual discussions.

Focusing on various aspects of the Damascus meeting, he said efforts were made to block the road of any compromise on the Palestinian issue and to point out ways and means to confront the Zionist regime's policy including its occupation of Lebanon.

Velayati said plots to keep Saddam in power were also featured in these talks.

Iran, Syria and Libya shared similar views on the issues such as Lebanon, Palestine, Iraqi imposed war and resumption of the over-all activities of the Steadfastness Front with the participation of Iran, he said, and singled out a common understanding among the three countries that the Zionist regime must withdraw from Lebanon with no condition.

He said Syria and Libya supported Iran's stand on the issue of the Iraqi imposed war.

Velayati said Iran, Syria and Libya backed the struggle of the Iraqi Muslim combatants for their efforts in overthrowing Saddam's regime.

OIL MINISTER COMMENTS ON MAINTAINING PRICE

LD222135 Tehran IRNA in English 2024 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22 IRNA -- In an interview with Tehran radio, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said that the only solution to secure the 34 dollar pb OPEC base price with the production ceiling of 18.5 mbd was that Saudi Arabia accept a production quota of 4.0 to 4.5 mbd. Gharazi who was speaking before his departure to the special OPEC oil ministers meet due to start in Geneva, added "unless Saudi Arabia keeps its oil production level at 4.0 to 4.5 mbd, neither the OPEC production ceiling of 18.5 mbd is acceptable nor can the base price of 34 dollar pb be preserved because with an increase in Saudi oil production the market situation will become even worse than it is now."

However, the Iranian minister said he believed that the Arab oil ministers who met recently in Oman, Kuwait and Manama had reached the conclusion that OPEC's base price must be defended and a sharp decrease in the Saudi production quota would have to be a prerequisite "at least for one year to the level of 4.0 to 4.5 mbd".

He criticised Saudi Arabia for increasing its oil production to 11 mbd after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 and for selling its oil four dollars less than the official 36 dollars pb. He added that now Iran had gradually gained its market share during the past 18 months and expressed hope that the Iranian delegation could act upon its revolution [word indistinct] at the Geneva meeting," since Iran's policy has always been to defend OPEC."

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR OPEC MEETING 22 JANUARY

LD221430 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22 (IRNA) -- The Iranian oil delegation headed by Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi today left for Geneva to attend an extraordinary meeting of the oil ministers on oil price and production quota.

The deputy for international affairs and trade of the Oil Ministry, Abbas Honardoust, prior to his departure, commenting on probable oil price decrease in the world market, said that it was a propaganda effort by the United States and other industrial countries. Such propaganda would not affect oil price, he added.

He further added that even if the U.S. was successful in lowering oil price, all investments in North Sea's oil reserves would be a failure and the U.S. itself would suffer from such a consequence.

When asked about stance of the Islamic Republic delegation in the Geneva meeting due to open Sunday, he said that despite attempts by some OPEC members, Iran has always worked towards strengthening OPEC and has been a defender of stable oil price and will continue to practice this policy in future. "We are optimistic about the future of the OPEC and will remain its member," he added.

The Oil Ministry deputy said that some OPEC members such as Algeria and Libya were holding stances similar to those of Iran. In the forthcoming meeting, the Iranian mission in addition to defending stable oil price and its level of production would announce its view concerning election of a new OPEC secretary general, he told IRNA.

Honardoust denied rumours alleging Iran of having asked Japan to help to reconstruct the Abadan oil refinery. As for results of recent meetings of Libyan and Nigerian oil officials with the Iranian Oil Ministry officials, he said that the talks were aimed at exchanging views on issues related to oil, prior to the Geneva meeting.

As for the recent visit of Turkish economic officials to Iran, he said that Iran would provide Turkey with 100 thousand barrels of crude oil per day for the year 1983. In addition, under the agreement signed between the two countries, Iran would purchase 60 thousand tons of oil pipe from Turkey.

Commenting on the foreign exchange used for oil deals, Hondardoust said that at present it was dollar on the grounds that fluctuation of other foreign exchanges was greater than that of dollar.

OPEC president and special advisor of the Nigerian president on petroleum and energy, Alahaji Yahaya Dikko, who arrived in Tehran last Thursday also left here for Geneva along with the Iranian delegation.

VELAYATI MEETS WITH UN ENVOY ON AFGHANISTAN

LD231254 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 83

[Text] The UN secretary general's special representative on Afghan affairs, who has traveled to Tehran, this morning met and conferred with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In this meeting, Velayati emphasized Iran's conditions regarding the Afghan issue and the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghan territory: The Soviet forces have no reason for being present and for suppressing the Afghan Muslim nation. Velayati added: We hope the people of Afghanistan will be masters of their own destiny without any pressure from the East or West and on the basis of public opinion.

MAJLIS SPEAKER WARNS OF FORCE AGAINST IRAQ

GF211212 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0905 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's Friday Arabic sermon at Tehran University on 21 January -- live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Peace be upon all Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world. After it achieved victories in the Moharram operations and struck at the Ba'thist aggressors in another part of Iranian territory, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been patient for more than 2 months.

During this period, the Islamic Republic has employed all guidance and informational facilities in cautioning and warning Saddam and his protectors and has asked them to give up the other part of our homeland, to concede to righteousness, and to stop their sabotage and aggression. But the Saddamists did not learn from their past defeats. Our advice, cautions, and warnings all fell on deaf ears. They were encouraged by the reactionary Arabs' financial aid, the imperialist Western and Eastern superpowers' military support, and the propaganda support of the sold-out mercenary propaganda organs -- imperialist and Zionist -- to continue their sabotage and aggression, using all propaganda facilities of the enemies of Islam, and to initiate and call for peace, mendaciously accusing us of the desire to continue the war.

As for you O Muslims, our hope in this battle, be it known to you that we, your brothers in Iran, have controlled ourselves with mounting patience and endurance. We pray to God Almighty to make us steadfast for his cause and religion and to prevent us from losing our patience and taking a hasty initiative with which God would not be pleased and which would not be good for the welfare of Muslims.

You know that a great nation that has offered tens of thousands of martyrs and victims to defend itself, to achieve victory, and to liberate its homeland, and that feels it is strong enough to take the initiative and continue to fight cannot be placated easily in front of a defeated, thwarted enemy who is about to fall and tumble.

We have put up with this problem and we have remained in our positions for 2 or 3 months with all the patience we could muster. We limited our action to warning, cautioning, advising, and defending, although we watched the enemy continue to occupy the city of Naftshar and its establishments. We watched daily encroachment upon our spaces, border cities, vital economic ports, and commercial ships. We daily watched as a number of (?heroic) Abadan inhabitants were martyred by artillery and mortar shells. We have endured all these calamities. O Muslims, we have endured all these calamities with the hope that the enemy would realize its weakness and impotence and concede to righteousness, and that we would not be forced to pursue violence and blood to secure our rights. Now O brothers, we gradually feel hopeless because Saddam's intransigence and disputatiousness on order from the masters have begun to convince us that punishing this aggressor and restoring rights cannot be achieved except through the way we pursued 2 years ago in defense of our revolution and homeland.

O brothers and sisters, today, for another time, from the Friday prayers tribunal and from the congregation of praying believers, we give the Saddamists their last chance through this warning. We hope that they will be realistic and that they will make the right decision and will not tire us further. We hope they will concede to righteousness and not become puppets in the hands of the enemies of Islam and Muslims, thus making those enemies fools and using them.

O Muslims, bear witness that we have fulfilled our term. If these 'Aflaqis do not take this chance, they will have no pretext before God and the peoples and we will have no other way but to resort to force. Peace be upon those who follow guidance.

God protect me from the damned devil. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Hast thou not seen how the Lord dealt with the people of the elephant? Didn't he cause their plan to miscarry? And He sent swarms of birds against them, which ate their carrion, striking them against stones of clay. And thus made them like broken straw, eaten up. [Koranic verse]

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Because of the attachment of the Qurais -- his making them attached to their journey in winter and summer -- they should worship the Lord of this house, who has fed them against hunger, and has given them security against fear. [Koranic verse] Peace and the blessings and mercy of God be upon you.

KHAMENE'I SCORES COUNTRIES SENDING ARMS TO IRAQ

LD211745 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 21 (IRNA) -- Speaking Thursday to a group of visiting personnel of the Iranian television, President Khamene'i said that millions of Muslims around the world were eager to be informed of the message of the Islamic Revolution.

"If we could have a proper and worthy production in one radio and television, then our positions would become clear for the people of the world and we would be able to thwart the biased propaganda of the (?imperialist) media," he said.

The president added that the propaganda being waged against the Islamic Revolution of Iran was nothing but the distortion of the facts and arrogant powers were trying to prepare the necessary ground to condemn the Islamic Republic of Iran as a country rejecting peace. "It is natural that our word of truth would not reach the people of the world through the widespread and biased propaganda of the arrogant powers," the president said.

Speaking on the Iraqi imposed war President Khamene'i said that those who preach in support of peace between Iraq and Iran are clearly lying since they at the same time are strengthening the Iraqi aggressor regime with all sorts of weapons.

"If you want peace, why do you arm Iraq by sending your equipped and sophisticated weapons? Don't you know that the sending of these weapons means (?you have issued) an order for the continuation of the war?" he asked.

The president then further spoke on the radio and television's role in the Iranian society and said that they should teach the people on thoughts and ethics more than anything else, since the people should grow by these [word indistinct] and carry the heavy weight of being the messenger of God to the oppressed people of the world.

PAKISTANI DAILY CITED ON SOVIET SUPPLIES TO IRAQ

LD211700 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Text] Tehran, Jan 20 IRNA -- A Pakistani English daily analysing the Iraqi imposed war said that the Soviet delivery of arms to the Iraqi regime would only prolong the war. THE MUSLIM of Rawalpindi in its recent issue commenting on the Soviet role in the 28-month-old war said that the Soviet Union by supplying the Iraqi regime with armaments was only fanning the flames of war.

The article further added that the Soviet Union by taking advantage of the anti-U.S. stance of the Islamic Republic Government of Iran, wanted to exert pressure on Iran and make Iran to lean towards the Soviet Union. However, stressed the article, the Soviets are completely mistaken, and they have not understood the realities of the Islamic Revolution of Iran.

The newspaper further said that the Soviet authorities have been thinking that prolongation of the Iran-Iraq war would overshadow the Afghanistan issue, and this was a wrong assumption. The newspaper also ridiculed the Soviet claim concerning its interest in termination of the war. Supplying the Iraqi Army with armaments including MiG fighters and T-72 tanks, showed that in practice the Soviet Union did not want the war to come to an end, the article added.

KHAMENE'I COMMENTS ON WAR, PALESTINIAN CAUSE

LD241012 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 24 Jan 83

[Text] Qom, Jan. 24, IRNA -- President 'Ali Khamene'i said in this central holy city Sunday afternoon that the Iraqi regime was neither a good neighbour for Iran nor seeking peace and calm in the Persian Gulf region. If Iraq attacked the Islamic Republic today, it would launch an offensive against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other states in future since a policy of exerting force was dominant over Baghdad rulers.

Speaking to a huge gathering at Hazrat Ma'suma (AS) holy shrine, the president who attended a seminar of provincial Friday prayer leaders here, referred to the impacts of the Islamic Revolution of Iran on the Camp David accords and said that when the U.S. forced Egypt to sign the accords it intended to make other Arab states to do so. But, he stressed, with the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran all these calculations (?fled) leading to the vigilance of the people of the region. Therefore, Iraq was commissioned to launch a war against Iran with the hope to remove the revolution but with the defeat of the plot, contrary to its harsh slogans against the Zionist regime, Iraq was not supporting the revival of the Camp David accords, the president said.

Today the defeated enemy was claiming that Iran had allegedly instigated the war but all knew that who had committed crimes such as shelling residential areas, occupying lands in Iranian territory and comprising with the superpowers with the objective to hinder the Islamic Revolution.

He reiterated that the Islamic Republic had no design on Iraq recalling that once the mediators used to say that Iran was in a weak position and, therefore, should not speak about strong conditions to end the war.

But, the president stressed, the Islamic Republic was in a rightful position at that time and now that it was in a strong situation and expelled the enemy from a great part of its territory taking around 50,000 Iraqi POWs, it would repeat the same conditions.

President Khamene'i, head of the Supreme Defence Council [SDC] added that the mediators approved Iran's conditions on war indemnities and expulsion of the enemy from the country but did not agree with the punishment of the aggressor. In reply the Islamic Republic reasoned that such a punishment would be in the interest of the people of the region because if the aggressor was not penalised the way for aggression would ever be opened in the region.

He emphasized that although adverse propaganda attempted to show that Iran was following a policy of imposing force, it provided the contrary. But, he reiterated, it would not accept such a policy from others adding that the Islamic Republic did not yield to such a policy by the U.S., the Soviet Union, France, other domination-seeking states and their allies.

The Iranian people, President Khamene'i said, would never kneel down to the Iraqi imposed war, although the enemy would not hesitate engineering further conspiracies, adding that people's vigilance had insured the Islamic Revolution vis-a-vis international plotters

Referring to the shuttlings of reactionary Arab states and U.S. lackeys to and in the region, the president said that such visits would entail dangerous decisions for the regional people adding that the Iraqi regime was playing a key role in this respect.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a Muslim revolutionary government sharing the cause of Palestine and being rightful to express its views on it rejected holding any negotiations or signing any pact or resolution in the absence of legitimate rights of Palestinians and regional peoples, head of the SDC said.

He called on the Palestinians to resist, preserve their vigilance and be along side with Muslim Lebanese and Afghan people in the fight against the superpowers.

President Khamene'i concluded his visit and returned to Tehran this morning. While in Qom, he met and conferred with prominent religious scholar Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, members of the Qom Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and teachers of Qom theological centre.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 1,190

LD211756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Jan 83

[Communique No 1,190 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name, at 1120 and 1403 today, two encroaching enemy aircraft were hit over the western Dezful area by fighter aircraft of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and surface-to-air defense units; it fell inside Iraqi territory.

Exchanges of fire continued yesterday on the Ilam, Qasr-e Shirin and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab border fronts. Our combative units brought the enemy positions in these regions under fire and silenced the heavy arms fire of the aggressors, setting fire to two enemy vehicles carrying ammunition.

A patrol group of our forces clashed with enemy infiltrators in the (Samvapa) region and inflicted losses on them so that the remaining personnel were forced to flee.

On the southern fronts, our combative heroes returned enemy fire and defended their positions. Our combat units, opening intense fire on the concentration centers of the Iraqi military on the other side of the Arvand Rud, destroyed more than 50 slit trenches and foxholes, an ammunition dump, and an observation post of the aggressors. Meanwhile, they stopped the movements of their vehicles on the Al-Faw Basra axis.

As a result of the heavy and long-range arms fire of the enemy, fire broke out yesterday in parts of Abadan and losses were suffered.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Communique No 1,191

LD221744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 83

[Joint Communique No 1,191 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Greetings for the birthday of His Excellency Imam (Hasan Asgari). The developments on the fronts of the imposed war hereby are brought to the attention of the compatriots:

During the past 24 hours, on the western border fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued. In the Mehran sector, the exchanges were more intense. As a result of the firing of the combatants of Islam, about 10 slit trenches and foxholes and a vehicle of the Iraqi forces were destroyed and a number of their personnel were killed or wounded.

In the Marivan sector, the Ground Forces combatants brought enemy positions and fortifications in (?Banavirah) under artillery fire, inflicting considerable damage and preventing enemy movements.

While defending their positions, the combatants of the guerrilla irregular warfare group dispatched patrols into enemy defensive positions, inflicting losses and casualties, and capturing two RPG-7's and a pair of binoculars.

On the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam defended their positions and sector and fortified them even further. By bringing enemy armored units and equipment and artillery positions under artillery and heavy weapons fire, they inflicted losses and casualties and silenced enemy fire.

On one of the southern fronts, one of our forces' patrol groups infiltrated enemy defensive positions, capturing a mortar.

On the Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, the Navy and Gerdarmerie combatants returned enemy fire, inflicting damage to the positions of the Saddamists on the other side of the Arvand Rud and killing or injuring a number of their personnel.

During the past 24 hours, aggressive enemy aerial actions were repelled by tactics of the self-sacrificing personnel of the Air Force and antiaircraft fire; the invading planes of the aggressive forces of Iraq were forced to flee the southern and western border regions.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran